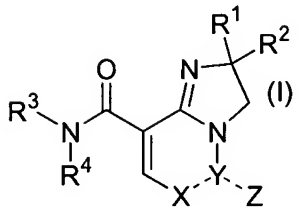
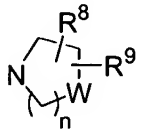
WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A compound represented by formula (I):



(I)

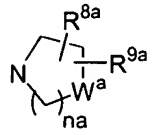
{wherein X--Y--Z represents R^5N-C=O (wherein R^5 represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkynyl), N=C-NR^6R^7 [wherein R^6 and R^7 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; or R^6 and R^7 are combined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom thereto to form:



(wherein n represents an integer of 1 to 3; W represents $-CH_2-$, -CH=CH-, -NH-, a sulfur atom, or an oxygen atom; and R^8 and R^9 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl,

substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxycarbonyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoyl, substituted or unsubstituted aroyl, substituted or unsubstituted heteroaroyl, a halogen atom, amino, nitro, cyano, hydroxy, oxo, carboxy, carbamoyl, mono or di(substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl)amino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoylamino, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxy, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyloxy, or substituted or unsubstituted lower alkanoyloxy)], or C=C-$NR^{6a}R^{7a}$ (wherein R^{6a} and R^{7a} have the same meanings as R^6 and R^7 defined above, respectively); R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkynyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group, a halogen atom, carboxy, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkoxycarbonyl, or C(=O)-$NR^{6b}R^{7b}$ (wherein R^{6b} and R^{7b} have the same meanings as R^6 and R^7 defined above, respectively); and R^3 and R^4 may be the same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted lower alkenyl, substituted or

unsubstituted aralkyl, or a substituted or unsubstituted heterocyclic group; or R^3 and R^4 are combined together with the adjacent nitrogen atom thereto to form:



(wherein na, W^a, R^{8a} and R^{9a} have the same meanings as n, W, R^8 and R^9 defined above, respectively)}, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X--Y--Z is R^5N-C=O (wherein R^5 has the same meaning as defined above).

3. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X--Y--Z is N=C-NR^6R^7 (wherein R^6 and R^7 have the same meanings as defined above, respectively).

4. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 3, wherein R^6 and R^7 are not hydrogen atoms simultaneously.

5. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 3, wherein R^6 is a hydrogen atom and R^7 is substituted or unsubstituted pyrrolidinyl.

6. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein X--Y--Z is C=C-$NR^{6a}R^{7a}$ (wherein R^{6a} and R^{7a} have the same meanings as defined above,

respectively).

7. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 6, wherein R^{6a} and R^{7a} are not hydrogen atoms simultaneously.

8. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein either R^1 or R^2 is a hydrogen atom and the other is substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl, or substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl; or R^1 and R^2 may be the same or different and each is substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl.

9. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein R^1 is a hydrogen atom and R^2 is aralkyl.

10. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom and R^4 is lower alkyl.

11. The compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein R^3 is a hydrogen atom and R^4 is substituted or unsubstituted aralkyl.

12. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

13. A preventive and/or therapeutic agent for diabetes,

which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

14. A preventive and/or therapeutic agent for complication of diabetes, which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

15. An insulin secretion promoter which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

16. A hypoglycemic agent which comprises the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

17. A method for preventing and/or treating diabetes, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

18. A method for preventing and/or treating a complication of diabetes, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

19. A method for promoting insulin secretion, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

20. A method for decreasing blood glucose level, which comprises administering an effective amount of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11.

21. Use of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a preventive and/or therapeutic agent for diabetes.

22. Use of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a preventive and/or therapeutic agent for a complication of diabetes.

23. Use of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of an insulin secretion promoter.

24. Use of the compound or the pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to any one of claims 1 to 11 for the manufacture of a hypoglycemic agent.